



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN HOAX BOMB BANK ROBBERY

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 29 year old Adrian Madrid Barrera pleaded guilty this afternoon in federal court in Midland to robbing a Chase Bank branch in Odessa on January 31, 2007. He faces up to twenty years in prison when he is sentenced in April.

As part of his plea, Barrera admitted that he and co-defendant Juan Ferrell robbed the Chase Bank branch located on West County Road in Odessa, Texas. He further admitted that in the course of the robbery, they used force and intimidation by claiming to have a bomb. The pair did have a box, which Ferrell carried, that had some wires coming out of it but it did not actually contain a bomb. However, bank employees did not know it was a fake bomb until Barrera and Ferrell had left the bank with approximately \$180,000 in cash. Barrera and Ferrell used the threat of the bomb to gain access to the bank vault where they forced bank employees to put money into bags.

After getting the cash from the vault, Barrera and Ferrell told employees to wait seven minutes after they left before calling the police, and warned the employees that they had people watching the bank who would detonate the bomb if employees did not do as instructed.

Once the robbery was over, Barrera and Ferrell fled to Mexico. Ferrell turned himself into police in El Paso after a few days and was sentenced in September 2007, to 64 months in federal prison for his role in the robbery. Barrera remained a fugitive until he was captured in Odessa in early December.

The case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Robbie Ward is prosecuting the case on behalf of the Government.

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